1: Roth--124 (No date) 1890 Tasmanians
116, 584, 595

"Calder also speaks as though they were a monogamous people: 'It is nowhere stated... that polygamy was practised by the Tasmanian; but as the man Joe... had two wives at the same time, it cannot be said the practice was unknown to them' (Journ. p. 22). Péron mentions meeting with a family of aborigines, 'two members of which, a young man and a young woman, appeared to us to be at the same time epoux et frères' (ch. xii. p. 226). There is, however, plenty of evidence to show that the natives were polygamous. West says (II. p. 78): 'Polygamy was tolerated; women were, latterly, bigamists.... It is said they courted with flowers.' Lloyd settles the question in favour of polygamy thus (pp. 44-45): 'Plurality of wives was the universal law among them. Amongst the Oyster Bay tribe, in 1821, I scarcely ever knew an instance of a native having but one gin. On the contrary, two or three were the usual allowance. I have known a grey-headed old savage to possess three wives of the respective ages of thirty, seventeen, and ten years, all betrothed to him from childhood, and from the time of their betrothal, became members of his family circle, entirely dependent on him for support.'"